

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this Patent Application, particularly in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks. No additional fee is required for this Amendment as the number of independent claims is not more than three, and the total number of claims has not changed.

Amendment to the Specification

The title has been amended in response to the objection, and the term d_{50vol} has been explained.

Amendment to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of dependent Claims 17 and 18, which the Office Action indicates is allowable. Claims 8 and 9 have been canceled as redundant in view of amended Claim 1. Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to depend from Claim 19. Claim 19, also indicated as allowable, has been amended into independent form. New Claims 23 and 24 have been added, and find support in Claims 2 and 3. All claims have been amended to remove reference numerals and to clarify the terminology identified by the Office Action. No new matter has been added to the claims by this Amendment.

Claim Objections

The objections to Claims 1-22 are believed to be rendered moot by the above Amendment. If the Examiner requires any further change, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (847) 490-1400.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Murakami et al., Tsukamoto, Hays et al., Kuehnle, and/or Doutney are rendered moot by the above Amendment. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of dependent Claims 17 and 18, which the Office Action indicates is allowable.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejections of Claims 6-8, 15, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Murakami et al., in view of Hays et al., are respectfully traversed. These claims depend from Claim 1, which has been amended to include limitations of dependent Claims 17 and 18, which the Office Action indicates is allowable.

Serial No.: 10/572,996

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for his time and efforts in determining Claims 9-13, 18, and 19 contain allowable subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended to include limitations of Claims 17 and 18, and Claim 19 has been amended into independent form. All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicants intend to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. If the Examiner detects any issue which the Examiner believes Applicants have not addressed or resolved in this response, the undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner.

Applicants sincerely believe that this Patent Application is now in condition for allowance and, thus, respectfully request early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark D. Swanson
Regis. No. 48,498

Pauley Petersen & Erickson
2800 West Higgins Road
Suite 365
Hoffman Estates, Illinois 60169
(847) 490-1400
FAX (847) 490-1403